

Astoria Music Festival enters final weekend

ASTORIA — The closing weekend of the 2015 Astoria Music Festival sprints to the finish line without taking a breath. Artistic Director Keith Clark offers two operas, an organ recital and a chamber music concert. The pace is fast; the artistry is high.

At 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, June 25 and 26, Festival Apprentice Artists will take the spotlight in fully staged performances of Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte," or "The Magic Flute," sung in German with English dialogue and supertitles. The opera will take place at the Clatsop Community College Performing Arts Center, 588 16th St.

Chosen from America's leading music schools, the festival's young artists deliver a bravura performance under the baton of Olivia Tsui, the founder and director of Los Angeles Virtuosi. David Hydom will sing Tamino, Chelsea Noel Chaves will sing Pamina, and Valdis Gregory will sing Queen of the Night.

As conceived by stage direc-



Submitted photo by Dario Acosta

Since her professional debut in 2008, soprano Angela Meade has quickly become recognized as one of the outstanding vocalists of her generation. Meade will perform as Mary Stuart in the finale opera in concert of Donizetti's "Maria Stuarda" June 28.

tor Brian Staufenbiel, director of Opera Parallèle in San Francisco, the action takes place in Astoria — complete with Columbia River Bar Pilots, the Coast Guard, and even a pirate.

Saturday, June 27 offers three contrasting events.

At 11 a.m., festival partner

Coast Community Radio brings its "Troll Radio Revue" live to the CCC Performing Arts Center to introduce kids and families to Mozart's "The Magic Flute."

At 4 p.m., acclaimed organist Christoph Bull will harness the power of Rodgers' mighty



Submitted photo

Aaron Blake, of Cincinnati Opera and Dallas Opera, will sing the part of Roberto in "Maria Stuarda" on Sunday, June 28.

organ on stage at the Liberty Theater in an eclectic program that ranges from Bach and Ravel to Billy Joel and his own compositions. Equally versed in classical and popular music, Bull's concerts present the sounds and styles of the organ in a new light to the astonishment of audiences.

At 7:30 p.m., pianist Cary Lewis will join the dynamic Ensō String Quartet in an evening of chamber music at the Liberty Theater. Founded at Yale University in 1999 and based in New York City since



Submitted photo

Richard Zeller, an internationally acclaimed baritone whose career has included 12 seasons at the Metropolitan Opera, will sing Talbot in "Maria Stuarda" June 28.

2007, the quartet features Maureen Nelson and Ken Hamao on violin, Melissa Reardon on viola and, in this performance, Peter Myers on cello, who has replaced regular cellist Richard Belcher due to a family emergency. The program includes Dvorak's Piano Quintet in A Major and, in honor of the 150th anniversary of his birth, Sibelius' String Quartet in D Minor.

After a thrilling three weeks of music played by more than

90 musicians from the nation's top orchestras and soloists of international renown, the festival closes at 5 p.m. Sunday, June 28 with the Northwest premier of Donizetti's bel canto opera, "Maria Stuarda." Festival favorite; Centralia, Washington native; and Metropolitan Opera star Angela Meade returns to Astoria to sing the title role of Mary Queen of Scots opposite Alexandra Deshorties as her deadly rival, Queen Elizabeth I. Aaron Blake as Roberto, Richard Zeller as Talbot, Matthew Hayward as Cecil and Angela Niederloh as Anna Kennedy complete the cast in this intense drama of religious, political and romantic rivalry-to-the-death between two 17th century cousin-queens.

For more information or tickets, visit www.astoriamusicfestival.org; visit the Astoria Music Festival box office at 1271 Commercial St. or call 503.325.9896; or visit the Liberty Theater box office at 1203 Commercial St. or call 503.325.5922, ext. 55.

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FRIDAY JULY 3 • 7:30PM
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Trombone Soloist: Lars Campbell
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